

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (cancelled)
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface allows illumination to emanate through the protective surface toward the dartboard.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface provides a filter of illumination.
4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the filter enables control of intensity and frequency spectrum of illumination transmitting through said portion of said protective surface.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface provides a filter of a polarization of illumination.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface filters illumination emanating directly from a source to a player in front of the dartboard.
7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the filter is opaque.
8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the filter comprises a reflective material to reflect a portion of illumination emanating from a source toward the dartboard.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said protective structure comprises a first portion providing a first filter of illumination, and a second portion providing a second filter of illumination.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein one of said filters is opaque.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein illumination is provided by a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the illumination is provided by a plurality of discrete sources distributed around the periphery of the dartboard.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said protective structure is removably attachable to a dartboard apparatus.
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)
16. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the illumination is provided from a plurality of discrete sources distributed around the periphery of the dartboard.
17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said protective surface is removably attachable to a dartboard apparatus.
18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said protective surface comprises a first portion providing a first filter of illumination, and a second portion providing a second filter of illumination.
19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface filters illumination emanating directly from a source to a player in front of the dartboard.
20. (Currently Amended) A dartboard illumination apparatus, comprising  
an illumination assembly to provide illumination from a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard ~~emanating from and about the~~

~~periphery of the dartboard, wherein the illumination is so arranged about the periphery as to~~  
provide substantially symmetrical illumination of a surface of the dartboard; and

a protective structure to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination; wherein at least a portion of the protective structure is translucent.

21. (previously presented) A method for illuminating a dartboard, comprising:

providing a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard, so that illumination emanates toward the surface of the dartboard to be reflected from said surface, thereby enabling substantially symmetrical illumination of the dartboard without substantial glare or shadow; and

providing a protective surface to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination.

22. (previously presented) A dartboard illumination apparatus, comprising:

a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard, so that illumination emanates toward the surface of the dartboard to be reflected from said surface, thereby enabling substantially symmetrical illumination of the dartboard without substantial glare or shadow; and

a protective surface to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination.